



Applications

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Colorado

Applications

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Filing and Processing Applications

All persons have a right to file an application for cash assistance.

Right provided for in regulation

The same application for cash assistance is used throughout the state.

The statewide application is a joint application for:

- Food Stamps
- Medicaid
- Old Age Pension

State policy sets standards of timeliness for processing applications:

Applications must be acted upon within 45 days.

The agency is required to issue a written decision on applications.

Pre-Application Requirements

The state does not impose requirements that must be met before a family can submit an application for cash assistance.

Pending Application Requirements

The state does not impose requirements (other than verification of information concerning eligibility) that a family must meet in order for its cash assistance application to be processed and approved.

Personal Responsibility Contracts

Applicants and recipients are not required to sign a personal responsibility contract.

Employability Plans

Applicants must sign an employability plan, i.e. a plan that covers only work requirements, as follows:

Counties have 30 days from application date to complete an assessment and another 30 days to complete the contract, or can opt to develop the contract before the assessment (immediately after application).

An individual develops an employability plan with:

- TANF eligibility worker at the TANF office
- Another worker at the TANF office
- A worker at an office separate from the TANF office:
 - At county discretion, a contractor's office

The following people must sign an employability plan:

Head of household

The following applicants and recipients are exempt from developing and/or signing an employability plan:

No exemptions specified

Counties determine whether to impose sanctions for failing or refusing to sign an employability plan.

At county discretion, affirmative refusal to participate in work may include denial or termination of cash grant.

Formal Diversion Programs

Counties have discretion to decide whether to operate a formal diversion program.

Current cash assistance recipients may participate in the cash diversion program, as follows:

If demonstrate no need for long term cash assistance and need for a specific item

There is no maximum diversion payment that may be provided.

The size of the diversion payment is calculated as follows:
Case-by-case based on need and county policy maximum

The income and asset limits used to determine diversion program eligibility are the same as those applied to applicants for ongoing cash assistance.

Eligibility for a cash diversion payment is decided based upon:

- Objective written criteria
- Caseworker discretion

A family that receives a diversion payment:

- May be ineligible for ongoing cash assistance for a period of time, at county discretion

A family can receive cash assistance during the period of ineligibility under the following circumstances:

- If there are circumstances beyond the participant's control

A diversion payment does not use up any months of a family's time-limited assistance as long as the period of need is 90 days or less.

When a family receives a diversion payment, its child support rights are not assigned to the state.

Families that receive diversion payments are eligible to receive:

- Child care services:

 - If they qualify for Colorado Works or have income less than 130 percent of FPL or between 130 and 185 percent of FPL depending on county-set eligibility

- Case management services, at county discretion

- Employment services, at county discretion

- Education and training services, at county discretion

Emergency Assistance

The state does not provide emergency assistance to families that are receiving TANF cash assistance.

The state provides emergency assistance to families that are eligible for but not receiving TANF cash assistance as follows:

Temporary shelter for homeless families

The state provides emergency assistance to families that are not eligible for TANF cash assistance as follows:

Child welfare; family preservation

Note: Information on exemptions from work requirements and sanctions for noncompliance with work requirements will be available in the Work and Sanction Provisions sections later this year.